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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/656,322

09/08/2003

Norio Ito

Q77364

9200

23373

7590

06/10/2004

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EXAMINER

PATEL, DHIRUBHAI R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2831

DATE MAILED: 06/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

10/656,322

Applicant(s)

ITO, NORIO

Examin r

DHIRU R PATEL

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspond nce address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: SKETCH A

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Part III DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, an electrical connection box recited in claims 1, 3 and 4 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). The examiner suggest showing reference number for an electrical connection box. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance. No new matter should be entered.

Applicant is responsible for showing reference number for claimed invention.

2. Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al (4,963,099) in view of applicant's own admission.

Sato et al disclose:

Regarding claim 1, an electric connection box (see column 2 lines 5-11) comprising: an insulating board 2 disposed along a vertical direction (see fig 1); a first bus bar 10A, 10B having potential provided on said insulating board (see column 2 lines 14-16); and a second bus bar 1A, 1B having potential provided on said insulating board (see column 2 lines 14-16) , wherein said first bus bar is on an upper side of said second bus bar in the vertical direction so as to be adjacent to each other (see figs 1 and 8), but fails to disclose said first bus bar having a lower potential and said second bus bar having a higher potential. As disclosed by applicants in the specification page 1, lines 23-25, applicant's disclose that the a bus bar 3 for supplying low voltage and bus bar 4 for supplying high voltage to an insulating board 2 . It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the

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time the invention was made to provide said first bus bar having a lower potential and said second bus bar having a higher potential as evidenced by applicant's own admission in order to provide a different voltage to the devices being mounted on said insulating board. Regarding claim 2, the modified assembly of Sato et al shows all of the claimed features as shown above, but fails to disclose said first bus bar and said second bus bar extend substantially in a horizontal direction. it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to use said first bus bar and said second bus bar extend substantially in a horizontal direction, since applicant has not disclosed that said first bus bar and said second bus bar extend substantially in a horizontal direction solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with if designed with said first bus bar and said second bus bar extend substantially in a horizontal direction of Sato et al.

Regarding claim 3, an electrical connection box (see column 2 lines 5-11) comprising: an insulating board 2 disposed along a vertical direction (see fig 1), a first bus bar 10A, 10B having a potential; and a second bus bar 1A, 1B having a potential (see fig 1), wherein said insulating board is partitioned into at least a first area on which said first bus bar is provided and a second area on which said second bus bar is provided (see fig 1, column 1 lines 35-45, column 2 lines 10-40, and see sketch A), but fails to said first bus bar having a lower potential and said second bus bar having a higher potential. As disclosed by applicants in the specification page 1, lines 23-25, applicant's disclose that the a bus bar 3 for supplying low voltage and bus bar 4 for supplying high voltage to an insulating board 2 .

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide said first bus bar having a lower potential and said second bus bar having a higher potential as evidenced by applicant's own admission in order to provide a different voltage to the devices being mounted on said insulating board.

Regarding claim 4, an electric connection box (see column 2 lines 5-11) comprising: an insulating board 2 disposed along a vertical direction (see fig 1), said insulating board being partitioned into at least a first area (opposite to facing side portion 14, see fig 1) and a second area (see sketch A); a first bus bar 10A, 10B having a potential provided on said first area of said insulating board; and a second bus bar 1A, 1B having a potential provided on said second area of said insulating board (see fig 1), wherein said first area is provided on an upper side of said second area in the vertical direction (see figs 1 and 8). but fails to said first bus bar having a lower potential and said second bus bar having a higher potential. As disclosed by applicants in the specification page 1, lines 23-25, applicant's disclose that the a bus bar 3 for supplying low voltage and bus bar 4 for supplying high voltage to an insulating board 2 .

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide said first bus bar having a lower potential and said second bus bar having a higher potential as evidenced by applicant's own admission in order to provide a different voltage to the devices being mounted on said insulating board.

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Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dhiru Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-1983. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pairedirect.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

Dhiru Patel
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 2831
June 8, 2004

Dhiru R Patel
Primary Examiner
6/8/04.